

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mathew Dernier on 2/15/2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

Specification:

Please delete the paragraph filed 10/05/2011 and insert the following paragraphs after paragraph number [0033] of U.S. Publication No. 2006/0025767:

"In accordance with one or more embodiments, the cap 420 may include a generally cylindrical body having first and second opposing ends, 432A, 423B, an outer surface, and a bore extending through the first and second opposing ends 432A, 423B of the body along a central, longitudinal axis. The cap 420 may further include one or two shoulders 421A, 421 B, disposed in opposing relationship when there are two such shoulders (as illustrated), and disposed proximate to the first end 423A of the body, and extending radially away, and circumferentially along, the outer surface of the body. As can best be seen in FIG. 13, at least portions of the shoulders 421A, 421B are sized and shaped to slide over, and overlie, respective portions of a lip of the tulip 406, at the periphery of the open end that receives the cap 420, by the rotation of the cap 420 about its longitudinal axis. The shoulders 422, 424 are sized and shaped to be: (i) received into the first and second slots (e.g., element 28 in FIG. 1), respectively, to positions adjacent to the opposing grooves (e.g., element 118 in FIG. 7), respectively, and (ii) slidingly received into the grooves 118 by rotation of the cap 420 about its longitudinal axis."

Claims:

In claim 79, the term "seat spacer" in line(s) 1 should be changed to --seat cap--

In claim 80, the term “seat spacer” in line(s) 2 and 3 should be changed to --seat cap--.

In claim 81, the term “seat spacer” in line(s) 1 should be changed to --seat cap--.

In claim 84, the term “seat spacer” in line(s) 2-3, 3, and 5 should be changed to --seat cap--.

Cancel claims 85-92.

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “associated tab” (claim 76) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New

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Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

In the interview with Applicant's representative, Mathew Dernier, on 2/15/2012, applicant agreed to file drawings pointing out where the associated tab is found in the drawings in FIG. 13.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The claims in the instant application have not been rejected using prior art because no references, or reasonable combination thereof, could be found which disclose, or suggest the claimed combination, specifically first, second, third, and fourth shoulders capable of performing the claimed function. Applicant has pointed out in an interview with the examiner that the prior art cited in the Non-final Office action does not have third and fourth shoulders sized and shaped to be received into the first and second slots (rather the prior art shows shoulders that are received into the central bore of the tulip and not into the slots formed in the sides of the tulip).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARY HOFFMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-5566. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 10:00-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo C. Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mary C. Hoffman/

Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/EDUARDO C. ROBERT/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733